Bombay Gazette.

Wednesday, July 31, 1816.

Volume 27] [Number 1365.

PURSUANT to a Decree of the Honorable the Court of the Recorder of Bombay made in a cause wherein "FRANCIS WARDEN & HENRY SHANK Esquires, are Complainants, on behalf of themselves SIER DADY Parsee, late of Bombay deceased, and CURSETJEE ARDESIER and others are Defendants." The Creditors of the said ARDASIER DADY, (who died on or about the 29th day of June 1810) residing within the limits of the East India Company's exclusive trade are to come in and prove their debts before EDWARD WILLIAM HUNT Esquire the Master of the said Court at his chambers, situate in Forbes-street within the Town Walls of Bombay, on or before the 1st day of January next; and such of the Creditors, of the said ARDASIER DADY as are residing in parts without the said limits of the said Company's exclusive trade are to come in and prove their debts before the said Master at the place aforesaid on or before the 1st day of July in the year of Christ 1818, in default whereof they will be peremptorily excluded the benefit of the said Decree.

HUNGERFORD,
Solicitor for Complts.

Bombay, 22d July 1816.

જાહેર ખબર.

શ્રી મુમબઇની નામદાર શીકારકર કોરટે ડીકરી કરી આપીછે તેમાંથે કુરાંશીશ વારકીન ઇશા કોઠિ રાા૦ ઇનરી શેક ઇશી કોઠિ ઉપરહેબો. પોતાની તરફથી રાં૦ બીજા લેહણાંવાલા ઓની તરફથી ફરીઆદી ફ્રીયી ફની મરનાર શેઠ અરદેશર દાદી રાા૦ખરશેદજી અરદેશર રાા૦ બીજાઓ ઉપર જે અરદેશર દા શ્રી રાા૦ શાને [૧૮૧૦] ગાં ગુજરી ગી લેહણાં વાલા વા નામદાર કમપની શારહદ મ યે રેહછે તેયણી પોતાનુંલેહણું ઇ ડવર ડ ઉલીઇ મહંદ ઇશા કોઠિ ને કારટનો માશાતરછે તેહની મા શ્રી શ પારબાશા ઇશાટરીટ મયેછે. તેયણીની પાશે જઇને ખરું કરે. રાા૦ [૧] જાનીવારી આવતી શુધી* બીજું ઉને જે લેકા ગાંવા વા

ળીએમ ઇંટ ઇશા કોઠિ ની પાશે જા ઇને ખરું કરે તા૦ [૧] જુલાઇ શને [૧૮૧૬] અંગારેજી ૧ ધી * આવા જા કાઇ શખશ ઉમુદત ઉપર પા નાંનું લેહણું ખરું નહીં કરી શખ શેને કશ્ર્ર કરશેતો તેયણી ઉડી કરીનાં નપ્રાથી ખારેજ અને ધાને લથાશે તા૦ [૨૨] મી જુલઇ શને [૧૮૧૬] અંગારેજી * જાનઇંગારકટે પરીઆદી કર નારાવીને વકીલ *

BENGAL
PROVIDENT SOCIETY
ESTABLISHED THE 1ST OCT. 1815.

NOTICE.—In order to afford every facility to Subscribers in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and that Residents therein may participate in the benefits that the increasing capital must be productive of to the rising population of India, the Directors have appointed Messrs. BINNEY and Co. of Madras, and Messrs. FORBES and Co. of Bombay, to be Agents to this Society—of whom the printed Regulations and Forms for Subscribers to fill up, may be obtained in the same manner as on reference to the undersigned, at the Office of Messrs. PALMER and Co. who are the Treasurers.

Subscriptions subject to Interest on the Amount of the respective Premiums from the 1st of October 1815, to the day of entry, including Agent's Charges, will continue to be received for the First Class until the 31st of December 1816, when the Books will close, and the amount subscribed accumulate until the expiration of the first 14 years; after which, a Dividend of the whole capital will be made to the Survivors, conformably to the 24th Article of the Regulations, which are published for general information in the Calcutta Directories for the present year. The number of Shares already entered is (678) Six Hundred and Seventy-eight.

By Authority of the Directors:
THOMAS KING,
Secretary.

CALCUTTA;
21st February, 1816.

Advertisement.

REMAINING about 30 Doz. Sautern Wine, imported by the Partridge, in cases of one doz. each at 18 rupees; inquire of LIMJEE COWASJEE opposite to MR. BAXTER'S old Shop.

Bombay, July 31st 1816

BOMBAY.

BIRTH.—On the 28th Instant, Mrs. King, of a Son

NAUTICAL CHRONICLE & NAVAL REPORT.

BOMBAY.

SAILED July 24th The H. C's. Cruizer Ariel Lieutenant James Arthur, to Bussorah.

Ditto His Majestys Frigate Amphitrite, to Madras.

Ditto 25th Ship Cornwallis, Captain Robert Graham to China.

Ditto Ship Sophya, Captain W. L. Jenkins to China.

The Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, 31, JULY 1816.

The Honourable Company's Ship [illegible] has arrived at Madras having left Gravesend on the 30th of March. She has consequently brought papers of a later date than those in our possession, but it would appear, from the Madras Extra Gazettes, that they contain very little additional news.

Madras.

Courier Office, 1 o' Clock, P. M.

We have the pleasure to announce the arrival in the Roads of the honorable Company's Ship *Larkins*, Captain Dumbleton. She is one of the Ships composing the Third Fleet of the Season, and sailed from Deal on the 1st of April, in company with the *Lord Keith*. They touched at Madeira, whence they again sailed together on the 23d of that month, but parted company the day after.

The following is a list of the Passengers of the *Larkins*.

Miss Daly—Mr. R. H. Clive and Mr. Robert Wilson, Writers—Mr. D. Leslie, Assistant Surgeon—Mr. H. W. Daly—and Mr. John Hall.

For Bengal—Miss M. A. Ochterlony—Miss L. Templeton—Miss Charlotte Wilson—Miss F. Fletcher—Miss L. Butler— Mr. J. Hunter and Mr. H. Manning, Writers— Mr. Cutler, Free Mariner —and F. Tomlin, Leather Manufacturer.

She has brought a small quantity of letters, which have been landed and sent to the Post Office.

The Second Fleet consisting of the *Asia*, *Warren Hastings* and *Marchioness of Ely*, and the China Fleet direct, sailed from Deal four days before the *Larkins*. She had seen nothing of the *Wexford* and *Elphinstone*. Our own Papers have not yet been delivered from the Post Office, but the kindness of a friend has supplied us with London Papers from the 21st to the 29th of March, both inclusive.

We select the following heads of intelligence from them, after a hasty perusal.

Paris Papers to the 26th of March had been received in London. The principal occurrence contained in them is that General Debelle, whom our readers will recollect, had been put upon his trial, had been found guilty. When the sentence condemning the General was read to him, he heard it without the least emotion, and said "My countenance does not change, because my conscience is pure; & if the King's clemency should be exercised towards a subject who has only been misled, all my life will be employed in repairing my fault, but if it can only be expiated by my death, I am ready to die! Vive le Roi! Vive le Roi! Vive le Roi!"

The trial of Sir R. Wilson had not commenced. The act of accusation has not been drawn out.

We further learn, that the Court of Accusation, had pronounced that no capital charge was intended to be preferred.

A report was prevalent that the Austrian Army had entered France, it is not said with what purport.

The King of France has been very ill. He was, however, recovering at the date of the last accounts.

General Donat was about to be put upon his trial.

A Message from the King of France to both Chambers, announcing the intended Marriage of the Duke de Berri to the grand daughter of the King of the two Sicilies had been announced by the Duc de Richelieu. This message was received with loud acclamations. They decided upon granting them a million of Francs annually.

The Papers are so completely occupied with reports of the interesting Debates which took place the whole of the month of March, upon the state of the Finances and Agriculture of the Country, that but little is to be found in them, concerning Continental Affairs; that little, however may be said to be upon the whole rather favorable than otherwise.

In consequence of the lengthened indisposition of the Prince Regent, His Royal Highness was unable to return to Carlton House, until the 28th of March. Pall Mall was crowded the whole of the day. Numerous visitors were admitted.

There was a report in London that Napoleon had been shot at by a sentinel on duty for having advanced beyond his limits.

The Admiral for this station had not sailed from Plymouth.

The Tax on Malt has also been abolished! The Tax on Farming Horses is also to be reduced! This looks well! The deficiency occasioned in the Ways and Means by these and other abolitions, will amount to about eight millions, which will be raised by loans. The funds have fallen in consequence.

No person had been appointed to succeed the late Lord Buckinghamshire.

The [illegible] and Custom War duties are to continue for five years. The Chancellor of the Exchequer does not intend to propose new Taxes, to replace the Property and Malt Taxes.

[*Mad. Cour. Extra.—July* 17.

English Extracts.

PARIS, MARCH 16.

[illegible] restate the [illegible] lordship [illegible] and to [illegible]

NAPLES, JA[illegible] ver had broken ou[illegible] the town of N[illegible] province of Bari. [illegible] justly apprehended, may [illegible] attracted the attention of Go[illegible] made proper dispositions to [illegible] attended, and to prevent the dise[illegible] beyond the infected district.

The Agent for Lloyd's has receiv[illegible] following from the Agent at Malta.

"MALTA, JAN. 9—I have to inform you, that advice has been received here of an epidimic disease prevailing in the island of Corfu, and described by the medical reports as the typhus fever: but it being attended with buboes, carbuncles, and petechiæ, I am fully persuaded it is the plague, and of the most violent kind. The experience we have had so recently in this island, will, no doubt, induce the Government to prevent all communication between the inhabitants at Corfu, and burn all su[illegible] perty found in the infected house[illegible] which will probably soon put a stop to its furth[illegible]

In consequence of his Excellen[illegible] Don having received intelligence to [illegible] effect from Sir Thomas Maitland, f[illegible] cautions have been taken here to [illegible] garrison against this new danger.

It is said a village has been burn[illegible] island of Corfu that had the plague, and that vigorous steps are taken to stop its progress, but the time of the year is very unfavourable.

A letter from a Gentleman in Dromore, received by his friend in this town,—"We are in a very disturbed state in this neighbourhood. There is a party of people who call themselves *Levellers*, and who send letters to almost every man who has land set, informing him, that if he does not lower his rents they will pay him a visit; and this visit is to break his windows, burn his houses, and, firing shots into his dwelling house, to kill one or other of the family. This practice is gaining ground, and where it may end God only knows. The times look bad."—*Belfast News-Letter.*

Accounts from the neighbourhood of Carlingford convey information of similar proceedings carrying on there. Various depredations have been perpetrated.—*Ibid.*

On Wednesday the 6th instant, about twelve o'clock, there was a dreadful thunder storm, attended by a hailshower, the effect of which were felt by many in the neighbourhood of Drumara, county of Down, but especially by a family of the name of Nelson, in the townland of Begny, contiguous to Drumara Miltown. The family, for some time after the thunder commenced, had been gathered about the fire, and when the mother thought the thunder was nearly over she went out to see what was the appearance of the clouds; and as she returned into the house, she was struck by a flash of lightening, which th[illegible] her husband, who at [illegible] the door, was lifted [illegible] head, and thrown ba[illegible] veral of the children [illegible] same shock, and a [illegible] paces from the doo[illegible] We are happy to ad[illegible] material damage suff[illegible] five perches from the [illegible] the ground was furr[illegible] and even the very [illegible] by this tremendous s[illegible]

A letter from Po[illegible] Jun. 20, says, "The [illegible] Captain TAIT, came [illegible] day last. She was [illegible] communication with [illegible]

derstood at Santa Martha, that several British subjects were to be tried by a civil tribunal for assisting the independent government."

Two great Russian houses failed lately at St. Petersburgh—one of them for 5,000, 000 of roubles. Their misfortunes are attributed to an extensive monopoly of colonial produce, particularly sugar, for the disposal of which they had been enabled to find no advantageous market.

A numerous Meeting of the Freemen of Exeter took place last week at the Hotel, when the following resolutions were agreed to:—That it is the duty of a representative to give his vote conformably to the wishes of his constituents, especially if their wishes coincide with the declared opinion of the majority of the nation; and that, at any future election for the city, the petitioners will exert their utmost influence to procure the return of any independent gentleman who will pledge himself to support their wishes, as expressed in the foregoing resolution.

AMERICAN DUTIES.

Yesterday reached us the new American Tariff, which was published by the government of the United States about the 19th of February.

NEW DUTIES ON IMPORTS PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The following is a sketch:—

1st. Free of duty.—All articles for the use of the United States, such as philosophical apparatus. &c.; books for schools and otherwise; personal baggage, &c.; regulus of antimony; animals for breeding; bullion; copper in any shape for use of mint, also in bars, pigs, &c.; tin, brass, old pewter; rags; wood and wood unmanufactured (except mahogany and dye-wood), zinc, and olive oil for manufacturers.

2d. Ad valorem duties of seven and a half per cent—Dyeing drugs and their materials not subject to other duty; gum arabic, gum senegal; jewellery: gold and silver watches and clocks, or parts of either and frames of clocks; laces of thread, silk, and cotton.

15 per cent.—All articles not free, and not subject to any specific duty.

20 per cent.—Linens of all kinds, cambrics, lawns, lawnets, cloths, sail cloth; Russia and German linens, silk and thread gloves and hose; silk, cotton, and all articles of which silk is the material or chief value.

22 per cent.—All articles *manufactured* of brass, copper, iron, steel, pewter, lead, and tin, &c.: buckles of all kinds; japanned wares of all kinds; cannon, muskets, fire and side arms.

28 per cent.—Woollen manufactures of all kinds, and all articles of which wool is the material or chief value.

33⅓ per cent.—Cotton manufactures of all descriptions of which cotton is the material, china-ware, earthenware, stone ware, porcelain, and glass manufactures; bonnets and caps for women, fans, feathers, ornaments for head-dresses, artificial flowers, and millinery; hats and caps of wool, fur, leather, chip, straw, or silk; cosmetics, washes, balsams, perfumes, painted floor-cloths, mats of grass or flags, sallad oil, pickled capers, anchovies, &c.; and sweetmeats.

33 per cent—Cabinet wares and all manufactures of wood, carriages of all descriptions; leather, and all articles made of it; paper of all descriptions; brushes, canes, whips, printing type, and clothing ready made.

Thirdly and lastly are enumerated various articles charged with specific duties.

[*The Times*,—*March* 19.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, MARCH 18.

Sir W. LEMON presented a petition from several parishes in the county of Cornwall against the property tax.

Petitions of the same nature were received and ordered to lie on the table from the town of Godalming, in Surrey, the town of Thorn-borough, in Gloucestershire, the boroughs of Stafford and St. Albans, and the towns of Market Deeping, Louth, Spilsby, and Hungerford.

Mr. TREMAYNE expressed his opinion that the repeal of the war malt duty would be more beneficial, in the present circumstances of the country, than the discontinuance of all taxes on property.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL was also persuaded that a property tax for a limited period, and under due modifications, was a measure required in the present situation of the country. This was his conscientious opinion, although it was adverse to the declared sense of his constituents.

Mr. METHUEN wished to observe that no intimation had been given of the intention of ministers to propose a repeal of the war malt duties; and it was therefore desirable that the house should not be led into the error of voting in favour of the property tax from any expectations of this nature.

Mr. FERGUSON presented a petition from the freeholders of the country of Aberdeen against a renewal of the property tax in time of peace. Ordered to lie on the table.

Sir H. NEALE presented a petition from the mayor and two burgesses of the borough of Lymington, disclaiming any participation in the petition lately presented from that town against the property tax.

Lord FOLKESTONE expressed his doubts whether the paper offered by the hon. baronet could properly be denominated a petition.

The SPEAKER observed, that the practice of the house was, not to be over scrupulous in considering the character of petitions.

Sir H. NEALE said, the object of the petitioners was merely to acquit themselves of any concern in a petition the language of which was disrespectful to the house, and contrary to its rules.

Lord ELMLEY presented a petition from the town of Stourbridge for a repeal of the insolvent debtors' act.

Lord ELMLEY also presented a petition from the county of Worcester, in favour of a modified tax on income.

Mr. LYTTLETON declared his opinion that the petition did not express the real sense of the county. It was signed chiefly by two magistrates, and was convened by a notice in which there was no mention made of the income tax.

Lord ELMLEY said, a proposition had been made for petitioning against the tax on property, and had been distinctly negatived.

Mr. LYTTLETON stated (as we understood) that a counter petition was in a state of rapid progress.

Lord ELMLEY then presented a petition from the city of Worcester against the continuance of the property tax, and praying the house to adopt measures of retrenchment, and for the abolition of sinecures.

Mr. GRENFELL inquired whether the papers he had lately moved for, containing copies of the correspondence between the commissioners of taxes and a commercial house in the city, were in a state of readiness to be produced. He was satisfied that they might have been ready a fortnight ago.

Mr. LUSHINGTON said they would be presented to-morrow.

The hon. member then laid on the table the returns moved for relative to the assessments of income in the city of London.

Mr. PROTHEROE said, he held in his hand a petition from the mayor and common council of the city of Bristol, in the prayer of which he was sorry that he could not concur. It was a petition against the bill now pending for building a new goal and penitentiary house in that city.

Mr. H. DAVIS observed, that there was little difference of opinion on the question of building a new goal, but the most advisable mode of doing it had been matter of much discussion.

Mr. BENNETT declared that nothing could be more scandalous than the present state of the goal in Bristol.

On the motion of Lord PALMERSTON, the [illegible] bill was

The house then went into a committee on the Dunleary harbour bill, the report of which was ordered to be brought up to-morrow.

Sir CHARLES POLE moved for a new writ for a member to serve in the present parliament, in the room of Mr. Pole Carew.

Sir W. GEARY presented a petition from the county of Kent against any renewal of the property tax, and the maintenance of large standing armies in time of peace. The hon. baronet stated that, although some opposition had been made, the petition was carried, with the exception of six or seven persons at the utmost, with the most perfect unanimity; and he had only to add, that he fully concurred with every part of it.

The petition was then read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. ROSE said he held in his hand a petition which he had received that morning by the mail-coach. It purported to be from the inhabitants of the town of Southampton; and its prayer was that the tax on property might not be renewed. With respect to the signatures, he believed that between thirty and forty of them were those of very respectable inhabitants, but there were also many of them persons who neither lived in, no were at all connected with the place.

Mr. P. MOORE presumed that this was the lost or stolen petition, for the recovery of which a reward had been offered.

Mr. BARING remarked on the reluctance evinced by the right hon. gentleman (Mr Rose) in presenting this petition, and his representations on a former night that it was signed only by paupers. It now appeared, however, that all the right hon. gentleman's exertions to procure a counter petition had been unavailing.

Mr. ROSE said he had been completely misunderstood; he had never stated that all the petitioners were paupers but he was satisfied that a large majority of them had never paid any taxes in their lives.

Mr C. DUNDAS presented a petition from the county of Berks against the renewal of the property tax, and praying for the abolition of sinecure places.

Mr. NEVILLE could assure the house that the present petition had been voted by a most numerous and respectable meeting, after full and dispassionate consideration. He could have wished that the noble lord had been a witness to the proceedings on this occasion. He would have seen the meeting characterized, not by thoughtless clamour, but by a spirit of honest indignation. For his own part he had only to add, that he was determined to resist, in every stage, an attempt to impose a property tax on the country in a time of profound peace.

Mr. WILLIAM DOUGLAS rose to put a question to an hon. and learned gentleman, whom he now saw in his place (Mr. Brougham.) He desired to know upon what authority that hon. gentleman had ventured to insinuate that his constituents were indisposed to commit their petitions to his charge. He valued his independence as highly as any member of the house, and was prepared to defend it against the hon. gentleman, either there or elsewhere. (*Cries of order, order.*)

Mr. BROUGHAM said, the house had nothing to do with the hon. gentleman's intentions elsewhere. With respect to what had fallen from him on a former occasion, he had certainly observed that it was somewhat extraordinary that the five boroughs represented by the hon. gentleman should have sent their petitions to the house through the medium of his (Mr. B.'s) presentation. This, he had considered, was only to be accounted for by some known difference of opinion on the subject of the income tax between the hon. gentleman and his constituents. Upon this supposition the conduct of the petitioners was quite natural; and he should therefore retain his opinion, until he saw reason to believe that the conjectures as to the hon. gentleman's views with regard to the property tax were unfounded.

Mr. W. DOUGLAS conceived that the hon. gentleman ought in common courtesy to have apprised him of his having received these petitions, before he presented them to the house, accompanied by observations of this nature.

Mr. BROUGHHAM believed the courtesy described by the hon. gentleman to be quite unusual in the practice of receiving and presenting petitions to the house. He wished to take this opportunity of asking an hon. baronet, whether there had been any appointment of an additional number of surgeons at the naval depots?

Sir G WARRENDER replied, that there had been three additional surgeons appointed at Portsmouth.

Mr. PELHAM presented a petition from the county of Lincoln against the continuance of the property tax, the war malt tax, and praying that the house would not consent to the maintenance of large standing armies, but adopt a system of rigid economy in every branch of the public expenditure.

Sir ROBET HERON observed, that the noble lord had lately expressed his opinion that the repeated debates on the military establishment had convinced the country of its justice and necessity. Had he been present at the Lincolnshire meeting, he would have seen that the population of that country, at least, formed an exception to his remark. It was the most numerous and respectable meeting he had seen an any occasion, unless at a time of general election. It certainly was not quite unanimous, for there were five gentlemen who spoke against it, but the show of hands was universally in favour of the petition. It was signed only by 600 persons, because it was not at first proposed to sign it generally; but the sheriff having refused to sign it in the name of the county, it was necessary to take this course. The meeting was held on Friday last—the petition arrived in town this morning. Every obstruction had likewise been thrown in the way of individuals applying to affix their signatures. He was desired by many farmers of the country to declare their belief that the repeal of the war malt duty would afford them the most efficacious relief, and, by increasing the consumption of barley, restore to the labourer that wholesome beverage of which he had almost forgotten the taste. It appeared to him that, in this point of view, the revenue also would be no loser.

Mr. CHAPLIN said, that when he considered the means resorted to to convince the meeting, he was not surprised that it should be numerous. He had heard of clergymen going at the head of their parishes, and believed a great number of those who signed paid no taxes at all.

Mr. PELHAM said a few wordsin support of the petition.

Sir. GILBERT HEATHCOTE could not see why a clergyman should be arraigned for agreeing with the opinions held by his parishioners in their detestation of the property tax. He had himself promoted the meeting by all the fair means in his power; and was not ashamed of having so done. If it was necessary, however, to adopt the practices made use of on the other side, he would not be minister of this country for all the mines of Peru. (*A laugh.*)

Sir ROBERT HERON said, one person had had the audacity, at the late meeting, to insinuate that he had forged the names of those who sanctioned the requisition. He had written, them, it was true, with his own hand, but it was at the request or with the authority of all the gentlemen whose names he so signed.

Lord G CAVENDISH observed, that he had desired the hon. baronet to set his name to the requisition.

Mr. CHAPLIN was quite satisfied he had signed the requisition upon the authority of a letter which he had received.

Mr. ATTERBURY presented a petition from Southampton against the property tax, which was not signed by paupers and children, as had been said of a former petition which was stolen, but by respectable inhabitants.

Lord FOLKESTONE stated, that the meeting was held last Saturday, in very rainy weather, and the petition lay only six hours for signatures, yet 480 respectable tradespeople signed it. As to what had been said about signing the first petition, he should state that, when this last petition was signed, a person of mean appearance presented himself, who, on being asked if he understood the tax or paid it, replied, that he understood its nature very well, and that thought he did not pay to it directly, yet he paid a rent for a house; which rent, he knew, would be lowered if the property tax were taken off—Ordered to lie on the table.

Lord LASCELLES presented a petition from certain inhabitants of Sheffield. The meeting was not regularly convened, but the petition was left for signatures for two days, and was signed by respectable persons. It stated their satisfaction at the termination of the ware, and their full confidence in the wisdom of parliament to adopt the wisest measures. It considered a modified property tax wise, but hoped for possible retrenchments suitable to the national honour.

Lord MILTON observed, that the petition he had already presented from Sheffield against the property tax was from a meeting properly and legally convened, and was signed by the most respectable inhabitants. Who had signed this fresh petition he knew not. He must, however, remark on what had been said about the object of this tax being to make the rich pay, and not the poor. A handbill or advertisement had been circulated in Sheffield, stating that the inhabitants were, by this petition called on to compel the rich to pay, and to save the poor. The noble lord had done his duty in presenting it, and so had he in stating how it had been procured.

Lord LASCELLES knew nothing of the modes taken to procure it. He observed in the Sheffield paper that the notice stated, that in its operation the tax would fall on the rich. He knew nothing about the handbill. It was his duty to present the petition.

Mr. PRESTON said a few words.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Sir C. MONCK presented a petition against the tax from Morpeth. Ordered to lie on the table.

Lord MILTON said, that 36 years had now elapsed since a petition had been presented from a regular meeting of the county of York. This was to be accounted for from the great difficulties in assembling a regular meeting in so extensive a county, wherein there was such a variety of contending interest. The present petition, he was sure, expressed the feelings of almost every person out of the house, and he was persuaded of all within it, except the hon. members opposite. He regretted to think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed unacquainted with the extent of public distress; he called it temporary, while his measures tended to permanency. If any proof were wanting of the public opinion it was to be found in the petition of the vast body of Yorkshire freeholders. At the meeting there were about 8,000, but certainly 5,000 in the Castle-yard. There were persons present attached to the measures of government, and who would, if they had seen any chance of success, have endeavoured to dissuade the freeholders from signing the petition. But their silence was a convincing proof that they knew their efforts would be useless. Some 12 or 20 however, of the adherents of government held up their hands against it. This was, therefore, a stronger case than if there had been even perfect unanimity. As the meeting was only held last Friday, it was signed only by those present, as there was not time to collect the vast number of freeholders that would have put down their names. It carried its weight, not from the parchment, but from the numerous signatures of the landed gentry, commercial men, and others who were all animated by the same feeling. It truly represented the public opinion; and he trusted that he, who had ever thought that house the faithful representative of the public opinion, should not now have to learn the contrary. He hoped the sense of the people would be fully attended to when such numerous petitions were presented from bodies legally convened by their mayors and sheriffs. When he had frequently voted in a minority, he believed that the majorities in that house were supported by majorities in the country: and if they were really, as he believed them the true representatives of the people, he trusted he should not be disappointed now. He hoped it could not now be said, as it had been of a former parliament, that we had an addressing house of commons, and a petitioning people. He hoped the house would not forfeit the good opinion entertained of it.

Lord LASCELLES said, he should always consider that the petition of a meeting regularly convened should be received with the greatest respect. But was it to be inferred from absence of many freeholders, that they acquiesced in the petition? Certainly those who chose to object might have attended. What their reasons were he could not tell. Possibly those on the opposite side had no wish to interfere with the intended proceedings. The meeting was undoubtedly numerous; who were not freeholders he could not pretend to say, but it was quite regularly convened as a meeting of the county of York. Gentlemen who knew all the circumstances, would appreciate the proceeding to their own judgement.

Lord MILTON said some opponents were present, among whom were persons intimately connected with the noble lord.

Lord GEORGE CAVENDISH thought, that if it had not been the clear sense of the country, there would have been found some opponents. The sense of the county could not have been more fairly collected. It was middle of the assizes, when so many people were collected at York.

The petition was then read, which prayed for removing every vestige of the property tax.—Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. DRUMMOND presented a petition from the justices of peace, freeholders, & commissioners of supply of the county of Perth; which, while it prayed for retrenchment [illegible] tax modified as [illegible] be found. (*H*[illegible]

General FE[illegible] noble lord and [illegible] to collect that t[illegible] favour of the pr[illegible] set right as to t[illegible] representation [illegible] popu- lous country of P[illegible] more than 200 such persons as the subscribers; and these be understood, amounted only to 20 or 30. He left the house to judge whether such petitions could speak the voice of the people. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. DRUMMOND said the petition was signed by 41 (*hear*), respectable persons; but the weather was very unsuitable for a larger attendance.

Sir WARRENDER maintained that petitions from Scotland, repectably signed, were entitled to as much attention as those from any other quarter. There had been a meeting in the honourable general's county in Scotand, at which he (Sir G. W.) believed that only four persons had been found to dissent from a modified tax; yet the meeting was composed of great agriculturists. They considered the tax, modified, as favourable to the interests of agriculture. The present petition was signed by persons of immense possessions and who would have the property tax to pay. The hon. general [illegible] surely know what occurred in his own county.

General FERGUSON [illegible] right or wrong. He agreed as to the respectability and independence of those who had signed this petition: but he must say that the representation in Scotland was such in its effects, as to give divine right not merely to kings, but to ministers.

Mr BARING could not fairly consider this a petition for the property tax. The petitioners prayed chiefly that government might put their hands into other peoples pockets instead of theirs. That appeared to be their meaning. This was the case both with those justices and commissioners of supply in Perthshire, and with those who signed the petition advertised by the bellman at Sheffield. Both wished for personal relief, and recommended the pressure upon others.

Lord BINNING observed, that gentlemen opposite were generally clamorous for the rights of petitioners when the petitions were against the tax, but if a petition did not go quite so far as they wished in invectives against the tax and the ministers, then they contended that the meeting was not respectable, and the petition not entitled to attention. He must protest against this practice. The gallant officer was proud of his country—so also was he. He was proud of the gentry of Scotland, and he wished to tell the honourable gentleman, who did not seem to know who the commissioners of supply were, and who appeared to think them persons not equal to himself, that they were gentleman of property in the county who were possessed of 100l. estate in the king's books. They represented the property of the country. He regretted to hear any thing like disrespect to them from the hon. gentleman, who knew that Perthshire was one of the largest, most opulent counties in Scotland. It was nothing to say that the meeting was not attended by hundreds who did not pay the tax. The petitioners were not to be eased by taking money out of other people's pockets: they prayed for taking off the tenant's tax as the most distressed class, while they were willing themselves to pay, with modifications for others.

At the request of a Member the Clerk read again a part of the petition, on which the hon. member observed, that it was certainly a complaint of grievances

Lord CASTLEREAGH said, that the gentleman opposite seemed disposed to turn a deafear to the petition; and as to the comments of the honourable General, they were totally unwarranted by the allegations and prayer of the petition itself. He thought this mode of receiving the petitions of the people extremely indecorous (*loud and repeated laughter*): and as he was convinced that the house had not understood this petition rightly, he should beg the clerk to read it again.

(This was accordingly done, but the reading was repeatedly interrupted by loud cries of *hear, hear*, from the opposite benches, on those parts of the petition which seemed to argue more against the tax than in favour of its continuance.)

Mr. BURRELL could positively state that there were many personsin the county of Perth who were directly hostile to the renewal of this odious tax; and as to those who had subscribed this petition, he had that morning received a letter from Perthshire, wherein he was told, that every one of his own tenants, except one, had actually become bankrupts—(*Hear hear.*)

Mr. PONSONBY was not one of those who were disposed to treat the petitions of the people with disrespect, whether they were in favour of the property tax or against it. He stated very carefully, in the first instance, that he did not conceive this petition to be favourable to its renewal, and having heard it read a second time, he was not at all inclined to alter his opinion. He wished to know on whom the petitioners thought the tax ought to be levied, and according to their own allegations, it appeared that there were more against it than in favour of it. He was not sorry, however, that the noble lord had spoken of the respect which ought to be shown to the petitions of the people, for it would now be seen what degree of respect he and his colleagues entertained for the vast number which had been presented from all parts of the country. (*Hear, hear.*) One or two had been sent up in favour of the tax; but if the general voice of the nation was to prevail, there could be no doubt in the mind of any man as to the issue of this contest between ministers and the people. He wished for nothing more than that the petitions should be received with all possible respect, for then it would be shown that the general sense of the country was against the renewal of this most detestable and inquisitorial impost. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir GEORGE CLERK rose to correct the misrepresentations, that this petition was not respectably signed, and that the petitioners were desirous of removing the burthen from their own shoulders, and fixing it on other members of the community. The same had been alleged by the member for Taunton, but was equally incorrect, with respect to the petition which he had presented from Edinburgh.

Mr. BARING explained.

Mr. FORBES could make only one observation on this petition, which was, that it appeared to him to be at least as much against the tax as for it. As to what had been thrown out that Scotland did not bear its due proportion of taxes, he desired to state, that every Scotchman was as severely taxed as an Englishman, and he paid his taxes as honorably and regularly.

Mr. R. ABERCROMBY did not know that there existed in Scotland so general an execration of taxes. The people were certainly labouring under the pressure of heavy taxation (*a laugh*); but no petition, complaining of the property tax, had been presented from the county of Banff.

Mr. FORBES said, that what the hon. member had stated with respect to the opinions of the Scotch had not been verified. An equal number of petitions against this tax had been presented from Scotland, in comparison with other parts of the kingdom. (*Hear, hear.*) The petition was then ordered to lie on the table.

A petition was presented from certain occupiers of land in the neighbourhood of Louth, praying for relief against the agricultural distresses of the country.

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CITY PETITION.

Sir WM CURTIS rose to present a petition from the merchants, bankers, and traders of the city of London, against the renewal of the property tax. The honourable baronet said, that at no period of his life had he known a meeting so respectable, or more determined to perform the important duty for which they had been convened. In 1783, when the people of England were in a state of despondency, the merchants, bankers, and traders of London came to certain resolutions, which not only restored the hopes and confidence of the capital, but revived the general spirit of the country; and it could not be denied that those resolutions produced a considerable effect on the minds of all good people in that house. In 1793, when the pressure of taxation was very great, and the public funds were exceedingly depressed, the merchants, bankers, and traders of London again assembled, and from certain loyal resolutions which then were passed, Mr. Pitt resolved to impose a tax on property, but expressly declared that it was to be a war tax, and was not to be continued after the conclusion of a definitive treaty of peace. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) The honourable baronet, therefore, referring to the principle upon which this tax was first laid upon the country, could not but express his astonishment that the right hon gent. should have resorted to so paltry a trick as to omit, the words "no longer" in the act which he had introduced, to make use of whatever the right honourable gentleman might think or feel on the occasion. Could it be supposed, that the merchants, bankers, and traders of London would silently bear a tax, which under the present circumstances of the country, no Briton ought to be called upon to pay? (*Hear, hear.*) No; they would never consent to the renewal of this tax in a time of general peace. They had, therefore, called a meeting at their public hall, and a more opulent and respectable body of persons could not be assembled in any city in Europe. They did not, however, complain so much of the money which they would have to pay, as of the unjustifiable and inquisitorial manner in which that money was to be levied. This petition was signed by more than 22,000 of the most respectable and wealthy inhabitants of the city of London; and he ventured to say, that they knew their own characters, and felt their own situations, as well as the right hon. gent. After what had passed on this subject, the citizens, of London, and indeed, the whole population of the country, ought to be upon their guard. (*Hear.*) He wished to ask the right hon gent. where was the necessity of renewing this odious and abominable tax? Last year the country had submitted to it, on account of the danger to be apprehended from our enemies; but we had fought and conquered; and after all the blood we had shed, and the immense treasure which we had expended, the nation wanted a breathing time. (*Hear, hear.*) Let the people but have a respite, and then show them the necessity of this tax, and they would not object to it. At present, there was no reason whatever for its continuance; and it was so oppressive, unjust, obnoxious, and inquisitorial that the people could not, and ought not to bear it. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) The right hon. gent. might still persist; but if the good people of that house would do their duty, he could not succeed. (*Hear, hear.*) The opinions of the merchants, bankers, and traders of London, ought not to be treated lightly. There had, indeed, been some talk of a counter-petition, and he believed that such a petition had been signed by about seventeen persons, but somebody then took it away in his pocket, and nothing more had been heard about it. (*A laugh, and cries of hear hear.*) He should beg leave, therefore, to bring up the petition with which he was charged, and he hoped it would be treated with that respect to which the noble lord had said the petitions of the people were entitled. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir JAMES SHAW desired to bear testimony to the opulence and great respectability of the persons who had signed this petition. There had been only one hand held up against the resolutions, and therefore it might be considered as the unanimous opinion of the principal merchants, bankers, and traders of the city of London. It should be recollected, that these were the persons who had originally enabled the minister to impose this tax on the country, and who had supported government during the whole of our arduous contest. He would ask, then, whether the right honourable gentleman would now refuse to listen to the opinions of his best friends; whether he would still adhere to a measure which the great majority of good men in the city of London had assembled to oppose? For what purpose was all this pertinacity? There was not one single argument which appeared to him to justify this obnoxious measure. The right honourable gentleman said, he wanted 6,000,000l. of money: but was that a reason for the renewal of a tax which scarcely a man in the country could endure the mention of? It was abhorrent to the feelings of Englishmen—it was a tax which they could not pay, and ought not to pay—but it was a tax, which, if the house now granted, would be charged upon the nation in perpetuity. (*Hear, hear.*) In 1798, the ground of levying this tax was that the funds had fallen to 47; but they were now above 60, and the right honourable gentleman could raise six millions under 5 per cent. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) Where, then, was the necessity for this abominable and inquisitorial tax? A loan of six millions would have no unfavourable effect on the funds, but it would materially relieve the distresses of the people, to whose burthens the right hon. gentleman ought not to add the weight of a single feather. (*Hear, hear.*) The right hon. gentleman might raise this money by Exchequer bills; but if he disliked that measure, he might take it out of the sinking fund. If he disapproved of that also, he might take a loan, and pay no interest for two years, as they had done in America with great success. There were various means of raising the six millions without resorting to the property tax; and he hoped that ministers would not be so blind to the public feeling, and show little regard to that deference which the people of England had a right to expect from them. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. MARTIN had hoped, that ministers would have given up this measure long ago. They might think, perhaps, that they would carry it by a few Irish members (*Cries of order, order, hear, hear*); but if any of those members should vote for the renewal of so detestable and inquisitorial a tax they would alienate the affections of the people of this country from Ireland. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. Alderman ATKINS said, that if so much joy had been expressed by the noble lord and his colleagues on the presentation of a petition which was signed by 41 persons in favour of the tax, he hoped that those who were hostile to that measure would be much more elated at this petition from the 22,000 respectable and opulent inhabitants of the City of London. He felt it unnecessary to add any thing to what the hon. baronet, and those who followed him, had said on that petition: but he should hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would now consent to abandon this tax, as the general voice of the country was raised against it.

Mr. BARING said, that this petition had been so well supported by the hon. gentlemen who represented the City of London, that he should trouble the house with only a few observations. At no period had he seen a more respectable and orderly meeting; and it was particularly worthy of consideration, that the resolutions were passed by those very individuals who happened to propose the original imposition of this tax. No person could be more highly respected than the gentleman who had moved those resolutions. The prayer of this petition was, not that the house would take it off, and shift it on the shoulders of other people, but that, as it was so odious that nothing but the most urgent necessity could justify its continuance, the house would not consent to renew it. The noble lord had cheered a petition signed by 41 persons, but he hoped he would not look only to favour at court, but think it necessary also to court the opinions of the people. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. PONSONBY.—He could not suffer this petition to pass without making some observations. The right hon. gentleman had been imprudent enough last year to speak very lightly of furred gowns and gold chains, and of the sentiments of those who wore them. He could not say that the present petition was that of furred gowns and gold chains merely: it was the voice of the great mass of the population of London, represented by that great and respectable body which had signed the petition. The tax had been represented as a boon to the monied interest; but here they had the whole of the most respectable part of the monied and commercial interest, and those possessed of the greatest property, coming to their bar, and rejecting the boon which was offered them. The noble lord (Castlereagh) had, on a former occasion, talked of an attempt to clamour down the property tax. Were the 22,000 persons who signed this petition to be considered as clamourers? For several days these petitions had been pouring in upon them, all against the tax, with the exception of a very few which were partially in favour, upon condition that the petitioners themselves should be in a great measure relieved from it. Now this petition came with the signatures of traders in the city of London: he would leave it to the house, then, to judge whether the opposition to the tax was the effect of ignorant clamour, or whether it was not the voice of the best informed and most respectable part of the community.

Mr. ALEXANDER.—It was seldom that he troubled the house by delivering his sentiments, but at present he felt himself called upon to say that he thought the property tax a wise and good measure. To be sure it was inconvenient. He himself felt great inconvenience from it, and so did his constituents. (*Hear, hear.*) But then such inconvenience must be endured when the public good required it. He had a good deal of communication with the monied interest, and, as far as he could learn, they were favourable to the continuation of the tax; and it was incompatible with the prosperity, the honour, and dignity of the country, that it should be withdrawn. (*Hear, hear, and laughing.*) He highly approved the measure, and his constituents approved it. He would, therefore, give it his cordial support, as a measure which would make himself pay for the public good, and also make others pay who otherwise would not pay. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. ELLISON.—This was a most serious and grave question, and ought to be so treated. For many years of his life it had been his pride to have supported the measures of Pitt. But now he was told that Mr. Pitt's measures originated from the city of London,—that the city of London, and not Mr. Pitt, governed every thing. But the measure, he believed, was Mr. Pitt's own, and it was by its means that the country was enabled so long to carry on the war which had now terminated so gloriously. They said that it was merely a war tax; but he said it was still a war tax, for the design of imposing it now was to clear off the burthens of war. He would support it therefore, boldly and manfully. He had voted for it before, because he thought it necessary, and he would for the same reason vote for it now (*coughing*).

Mr W. SMITH.—He should not have said a word on this petition, were it not for some parts of the speech of the hon. member (Alexander) on the floor. The members for the city of London had presented and supported a petition, agreed to not only by the great body of their constituents but also by a vast number of the most respectable individuals resident in the city of London, against this tax. He was therefore, astonished beyond measure to hear the hon. member talk of the monied interest as being favourably disposed towards a continuation of the tax in question. (*Hear, hear.*) If the sense of the monied interest was not to be collected from such a petition as this, he did not know where it was to be collected; and he would ask, whether, in any part of Europe, the sense of the mass of the people of London, and of the monied interest, would be considered as better estimated from the report of the honourable member stating the opinions of a few of his acquaintances, or from a petition signed by twenty-two thousand of the most respectable merchants, bankers, and traders of the City of London? (*Hear, hear.*) But that hon. member used one word to which he really must solicit the attention of the house. The hon. member spoke of the opinion of his *constituents*. Now, what was their number? (*Hear, hear, and a laugh.*) He believed their opinions would weigh greatly, indeed, in the scale against the opinion of 22,000 of the most respectable London merchants, and traders! The honourable member's constituents a member asked, "where are they?")—he heard some honourable member ask where the constituents were. In answer to that question, he must say, that unless he was very much mistaken, they would be found in the county of Wilts, in that ancient and most respectable borough Old Sarum. (*Hear, hear, and a loud laugh.*) He believed the hon. member's constituents were 4 in number. (*No no—only one.*) Then it appeared he had exaggerated the number of the hon. members constituents in stating them at 4? for the constituents, if he might use the expression, made up the number—one. (*Laughter, and hear, hear.*) This was the honourable member's monied interest. (*Hear, hear.*) What monied interest the honourable member's constituent had he left it for himself to state. But he had really heard the honourable member's speech with such perfect surprise and astonishment, that he could scarcely yet believe that he had heard him correctly. He only hoped that he might be sufficiently recovered from his astonishment by the time he (the Speaker) put the question so as not to vote the wrong way. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. ALEXANDER in explanation said, that he was a man in business, and had considerable acquaintance with the monied interest and the money of many of them in his hands, and it was to these persons that he alluded.

PERSONS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH.

Mr. BENNETT wished to ask the noble lord opposite, why there had been so much delay in deciding in Council on the cases of the prisoners in Newgate now under sentence of death? He had himself found by personal inspection of the gaol of Newgate, that 58 persons under sentence of death were there confined, and in (as we understood him to say) 15 cells. Many of these had received their sentence at the December sessions, and had been, therefore, for months confined in a state of the most painful suspence.

Lord CASTLEREAGH stated, that the cause of the delay was the continued indisposition of the Prince Regent, and the difficulty and inconvenience of assembling the judges at Brighton, who ought properly to be present in council on these occasions.

Lord MILTON.—He moved for a return of the number of persons now confined under sentence of death in Newgate, together with the dates of their sentences. He did so from the astonishment and indignation which he felt at the reasons alleged by the noble lord for the neglect of this most solemn and important act of the royal prerogative. (*Hear.*) Was it then a common indisposition of the individuals in effect at the head of the government which so greatly delayed the exercise of this most important duty? Was that the reason why so many persons were left for days, weeks and even months in such a situation? Merely, forsooth, because the individual who acted for his Majesty was somewhat indisposed, and it was difficult and inconvenient to assemble the proper persons at Brighton. But if Brighton had, instead of 50 miles, been 500 miles from London.—if it had been in the county of Sutherland instead of the county of Sussex, those who should attend on such occasions, whatever might be the inconvenience, ought to go there. (*Hear hear.*) He was aware he spoke with more than usual warmth, but he could not express the astonishment and indignation with which he heard the noble lord's statement. He therefore moved for a return of the prisoners under sentence of death as above.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL.—He saw no objection to the production of the account which the noble lord called for, but it did appear to him extraordinary that the answer of his noble friend should be so taken. He could easily conceive that an hon. member upon going to Newgate, might find many persons on whom sentence of death had passed, in state of great suspense and anxiety, and he might feel that it was highly desirable that their cases should be disposed of with as little delay as possible: but if the hon. member had attended to the Recorder's reports, he would have found that it was no new occurrence for the decision on the cases of persons in such a situation being delayed for a considerable length of time, and the practical inconvenience that might result from calling away the judges from their other judicial functions at a particular period ought to be considered. (*Hear, hear.*) He repeated, that a great practical inconvenience might result from compelling the attendance of the judges at certain periods at a place so distant, where the Prince be perfectly familiar to all with the matters, that in the greater number of cases the sentence of death was remitted, and it was only in a comparatively small number of instances that for the security of the public, the law was suffered to take its course. There was a very considerable number at present under sentence of death; but it might be confidently anticipated, that with respect to the greater number they would not be discharged, but have the capital part of their punishment remitted. The judgment of their peers, however, had found them guilty of capital crimes, and therefore if the matter were coolly and impartially looked at, it would appear that very few of them had any great reason to complain. The delay was, indeed, in the present instance considerable; but on all such occasions every one of the cases received the most careful and anxious consideration upon examination of the judge's notes, and some delay was therefore unavoidable. They were considered by the judges, and all learned lords who attended the council when these matters were the subject of deliberation; and though he would not oppose the present motion, he denied that there was any substantial ground of complaint.

Mr. WYNNE—He really could hardly believe the testimony of his own ears when he heard it stated by the Attorney General that there was no practical inconvenience in keeping fifty eight men in a state of such agonizing suspense. Were they then to be told that there was no great hardship in keeping men still ignorant of their fate, on whom sentence of death had been passed at the December sessions? Was it nothing to keep them in this state of cruel suspense? All who had attended particularly to the nature and effect of penal law had perceived the mischievous consequences which followed from too great an interval between the sentence and execution. The miserable persons themselves were in the mean time perhaps buoyed up with false hopes, and would be doubly punished on finding afterward that they had flattered themselves with vain expectations. Two Councils had been lately held, and a message on an important subject had been brought down within these few days, which had been considered at one of these meetings, so that the delay in the present instance did not arise from the necessity of the case: but then it was said, what great inconvenience could arise from compelling the attendance of the judges at such a distance? His answer was, that whatever the inconvenience might be it ought to be submitted to; for though the evil might be great, it was nothing in comparison of that which arose from such a delay in the execution of this important duty. But, in point of fact the attendence of all the judges was not required, and the reports of the judges were sometimes taken by the Lord Chancellor and the Recorder. The opinions of the judges were always given in on these occasions, but it was not considered necessary that they themselves should be present. So much as to the effects of this delay with respect to the individual. But they must also look on the matter with a view to the interests of the public. What was the great purpose of punishment? Example. But if such a long interval were suffered to elapse between the trial, the sentence, and the punishment, the crime would be forgotten, and nothing but a parcel of men going to be hanged, without its being generally known for what—a spectacle for idle people. These were the effects of this delay, which must be considered as most pernicious in a pubilc view, as well as most cruel with respect to those miserable individuals.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL, in explanation, said that he did not assert that no practical inconvenience arose from the delay; but it was not uncommon, with respect to those who were not ordered for immediate execution, that some delay took place before the pleasure of the Crown was announced as to their cases.

The motion was then agreed to.

Lord BINNING moved for an account of spirits distilled in the lowlands of Scotland. Ordered.

[*The Times.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH.

Mr. ATHERLY stated, that he should have had to perform the duty of presenting a Petition from the town of Southampton against the Property Tax, but that it had unfortunately been stolen out of the box in which it was kept, while lying for signatures. (*Loud laughter.*) The Hon. Member read the substance of the petition from a written paper, and appeared about to make a motion, when.

Mr. ROSE got up, amidst general laughter and cries of *Hear, hear!* He said, that no motion was necessary, for it was not a regular petition that had been stolen. He would state what happened. About three weeks ago, a number of persons met and intended to call a Meeting to petition against the Property Tax, but after much trouble, they could not hammer out names enough of respectability, to induce the Mayor to sign the Requisition. The petition lay at a public house, where about twenty or thirty respectable Gentlemen signed it: but all the rest of the names were absolutely those of paupers; so that when the Gentlemen of the place saw it, and observed the names of these paupers, they were actually ashamed of it. At last it disappeared, and though nothing would have been more easy than to have prepared another, and the Mayor told them he would call a public meeting, if properly required, yet nobody could be found to take the lead in the matter. For his own part, if the petition had been advertised, and a reward offered for its recovery, he would have given 20 guineas out of his own pocket to get it back again. (*Much laughter.*)

Lord FOLKSTONE denyed that the Petition lay at a common public house; it was left for signature at the most respectable inn in the place, where it was signed by 400 or 500 persons; but on Friday morning last the room that contained it was broken open, and it was carried off. The Right Hon. Gentleman's friends had given it great opposition, but he did not attribute to them any thing further.—[*Loud Laughter.*].

Mr. BROUGHAM rose to move for leave to present a petition from Dumfries against the Property tax and complaining also of the extravagance of Government in avoiding just retrenchments. He observed that it was impossible the Petitioners, when they used this language, could have had in their eye the rumour which had got abroad—a rumour which he felt himself almost incapable of believing, much as he had heard and known of the disregard of ministers of the pretensions to economy, which they had put into the mouth of the Prince Regent, on the first day of the Session. He was utterly at a loss to believe, that at the very time while we were discussing propositions for cutting off all useless offices, and diminishing by the number of two or three, the Lords of the Admiralty, on the ground that the number occupied in time of war was perfectly unnecessary in time of peace; that while the House were grounding a complaint to the Crown (*Loud cries of order, order!*) He would say, that while these inquiries were going on, it was of some consequence to the Country and to the House, though, as it appeared, not to Ministers, to know on what pretences the salaries of the two Secretaries to the Admiralty were to be continued at the same rate as in time of war. It appeared, that while the House was occupied in ascertaining how the salaries of public offices could be reduced, his Majesty's Government was actually engaged in increasing the salaries of the two Secretaries of the Admiralty. He would admit that this was only a rumour, but if it was unfounded, there was not a moment to be lost in refuting it. At a time when every thing had been reduced 50 per cent, for God's sake, was it possible to believe that such a period had been seized upon by Ministers to advance the salaries of persons holding places which were useless? Lord Spencer, in 1816, had thought it proper to obtain an Order in Council for allotting a greater salary to these Secretaries during war than they were to have in a time of peace, on account of the additional pressure of duty during the war.—But he had heard that the Hon. Secretary, on going to receive his salary, & having tendered it at the reduced rate of the peace, politely declined taking it, and said he would call again. But in the mean time another Order in Council was obtained to raise the salaries to what they were on the full war establishment. This was the rumour on which a motion of his Hon. Friend (Mr Methuen) was grounded; and if it was found to be substantially correct, he trusted that some Member of weight in that house than himself, would immediately, and once for all, interfere to cause the house to put a stop to this barefaced system of disregard to the pledge of economy from the Throne: and when such a motion was brought forward, and the facts made out, he felt that there was no measure of censure which the house could adopt that would be too strong. Having expressed his opinion of a circumstance which arose out of the language of the petition that he held in his hand, he should move for leave to bring it up.

Sir G. WARRENDER observed, that the Hon. Gentlemen had, with his usual warmth and ardour, brought forward, without any proof whatever, a great number of statements respecting the increase of Salaries of Secretaries and others. But if he had patience, this question, about which he had said so much, would have come before the House in the discussion of the Naval Establishment, and then would have been the time to enquire into it. But the Hon. Gentleman appeared anxious to endeavour to prevent the house from forming a deliberate judgement on such questions; for certainly after what had been heard, no sober opinion could be formed on them.—Respecting the increase just complained of in such violent terms, he could say, in the absence of the Right Hon. Sec. who had been particularly alluded to, that it was done under the special and distinct recommendation of the Board of Commissioners for the revision of the Civil Department of the Navy. He would therefore ask of the House only to suspend their judgement till the question came fairly before them, and not to form their opinion on it from the statement made by the Hon. Gentleman without any real information.

Mr. TIERNEY replied, that salaries had been continued at the war rate, after the war was concluded; and what was the excuse? That the increase had been recommended by the Board of Naval Revision. When Lord St. Vincent had the superintendance of the Admiralty, it was his business to [illegible] subsequent Board had [illegible] ahead all he had done. (*Hear.*)

Lord CASTLEREAGH [illegible] to admit, that [illegible] place in any department, [illegible] necessity lay with the Ministers [illegible] ded it. We were not in such [illegible] as should prevent us from granting [illegible] mod. a proper reward for [illegible] would be allowed by the [illegible] side, that when their services [illegible] nomy was as necessary as at [illegible] ment—that the country was [illegible] useless or extravagant [illegible] even declared our situation [illegible] depressed, and our resources [illegible]

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and yet, when they went out of place, they had no less than 150 offices in creation connected with the revenue. There was not only an increase of salary meditated, but new officers to a vast extent to be appointed. Many of these officers were to enjoy snug, comfortable salaries, and all of them together would have fixed an extraordinary and uncalled-for burden upon the country, from which it was saved by the sudden appointment of other Ministers to guide his Majesty's Councils. The Government would show cause for their conduct, and the Noble Lord claimed nothing from the Gentlemen opposite (who, with all their regard to economy, had been obliged to increase the property tax, from 6¾ to 10 per cent,) but a fair hearing to the plea which he might advance. He never expected any favour from them; he never deprecated their opposition—all that he wished was to meet by fair argument—all that he dreaded was that clamour which would listen to none. A Right Hon. Gentleman on the other side, with all his smiles and sedateness, lent his aid and countenance to that clamour, and contributed to raise as much as the most noisy and precipitate. He (the Noble Lord) deprecated the in[illegible] which they attempted to create in the public mind by unfounded charges of profligacy and bad faith.—When the distresses of the country came regularly to be considered in the House, as on a late occasion (on Mr. Western's motion) when their opinions might have been regularly delivered without any party violence, and might have suggested plans of [illegible] benches were almost deserted, there was nothing of sufficient interest to secure their attendance; but when any topic of [illegible] was to be brought forward, or any opportunity occurred of making popular charges against Government, they were all in their places cheering and supporting each other.

Mr. Ponsonby alluded to the 160 offices which the administration of 1806 intended to create, had never heard of them before, but [illegible] the Right Honourable Gentleman (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) who was then Secretary of the Treasury, to give an explanation [illegible] he hoped he would now be more successful in defending the friends with whom he then acted, than he was in his explanation of their plan of finance. (*Hear and a laugh*). The Noble Lord said, he was disposed to defend his measures by argument. He certainly did come down to the House night after night to argue upon the principle of economy, but never to practise them. (*A laugh.*) The members on the side of the house on which he (Mr. P.) sat, had been accused of deserting their benches when the question of the agricultural distress was before the House. He observed no such desertion. He had himself attended till the Committee was allowed, and then he thought, as nothing else could be done, he might leave the House without deserting his duty. Perhaps the Noble Lord thought the eloquence which he could display should have detained him (Mr. P.); but he was free to confess, that when no important business was to be done, he could, without reluctance, forego the pleasure of listening to it. The Noble Lord had accused the Members of the Opposition of attempting to excite a clamour about the property tax and economy. He took his full share of the Noble Lord's censure and he only wished the country, who were included in it, would learn what opinion the Noble Lord entertained of the respectful declaration of their wishes and sentiments. He hoped the respectable merchants, bankers, and the traders of the city of London, and of the other cities of the empire, he hoped all the inhabitants of all parts of the United Kingdom, would take notice of the Noble Lord's words and determine what they should think of a Minister who pronounced their petitions—clamour.

Lord Castlereagh rose with some warmth, and declared that the insinuation of the Right Honourable Gentleman, of his having reproached the country with having excited clamours, was one of the most extraordinary misrepresentations he had ever heard. (*Loud cries of Hear, hear, hear; from all quarters of the House.*)—The observation indeed afforded a most pregnant instance of the distress to which he was driven in point of argument, when he (Lord C.'s) censuring the clamour continually raised on the other side of the House, had been perverted into a clamour by the merchants, bankers, and other well informed persons who had sent in petitions.—He had never meant his observations to apply to [illegible] thing but the particular discussions so repeatedly raised on that side of the House.

Sir John Newport, when the Noble Lord disclaimed having made any accusation against the people, wished to refer him to the recollection of the manner in which he had designated their anxieties, as "an ignorant impatience for the relaxation of taxation."—*Hear, hear, hear!*

Mr. Croker apologised for not having been in his place when this discussion began, and when explanations might have been expected from him relative to the office he had the honour of filling. After what had passed respecting the returns to the Admiralty, he had left the House to ascertain whether any of them could be made that night: and having that moment returned, he was quite ignorant of what had been said. He must therefore simply confine himself to a relation of facts. In the 1786 a commission was then first appointed for the purpose of revising the business of the military department; and it was thought eligible to extend its investigations to different offices of Government. This commission had recommended, that the salaries of the persons employed should be in time of war greater than in time of peace; but the recommendation was never proceeded on, except in the single case of the Admiralty; and by an Order in Council, it was provided that the salaries of the secretary and his clerks should vary in the proportion of one-fourth between a time of war and peace. In 1806 another commission was appointed for revising the civil concerns of the navy, and that commission, on making their report, had not recommended the system of difference between war and peace, as the many persons employed, though they would have less labour at the Admiralty, would not be able to maintain themselves at their reduced salary, and would have no chance of getting other business. So the matter rested till the last war—he meant the war after the return of Buonaparte, when the distinction complained of happened, and when by an Order in Council, his Majesty had been pleased to declare that the salaries should be continued at the war rate, by which the recognition of the provisions laid down by the Board of Commissioners was done away. The Right Hon. Gentleman continued to argue that the provision in question was necessary, in justice to the clerks, who would otherwise be employed at reduced salaries, while those in all the other offices experienced no diminution. He begged to be understood as only speaking generally; for not having heard what had been said on the subject, he was precluded from delivering his opinion on particular points.—[A disturbance having occurred in the gallery before the right Honourable Gentleman sat down, his finishing observations were not distinctly heard.]

Mr. Tierney said, he had heard a different ground stated for the regulation of the office in question. The salary itself was so small as to leave an immense disproportion between the emoluments of the office, arising from fees in time of war, and its profits in time of peace. It was with a view of adjusting this difference, that Lord Spencer, during his administration, had adopted an arrangement with respect to fees, the effect of which was to settle the real profits of the situation at the sum of £4,000 during the war, and £2,000 per annum during peace. If this statement should be correct, the case of the Hon. Gentleman certainly was placed out of the principle upon which the increase in other public salaries had been founded.

Mr. Croker said, as he was not prepared to expect a discussion on this subject, he might have been somewhat incorrect as to dates. The fees of the Secretary of the Admiralty had formerly amounted to the enormous sum of from £10 to £8,000 per annum. These had been most properly put an end to.—He did not take upon himself to say whether the salaries of other officers ought not to be diminished on the return of peace; but if this were not thought expedient, he was of opinion it would not appear just that the emoluments of the Secretary of the Admiralty should be reduced, and these alone.

Mr. Tierney repeated, that all this referred to a state of war. Mr. Croker explained, and stated that the arrangement left the salary £3,000 a year in peace.

Army Estimates.—On the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the House went into a Committe of Supply.—Lord Palmerstone moved that the sum of £332,692, 11s. 6d be voted, to defray the charge for the Dragoon Guards and the Royal Waggon Train.

A Member, whose name we could not learn, stated, that the greatest disgust had been excited in our sea port towns by the number of horses which and been dragged out of the vessels dead. He had seen transports with 30 horses, and sometimes not more than two or three that were landed alive. There was another description of vessels, square rigged, in which no horse was lost; but most of them perished in the cutters. The fine horses that had died after being a few hours at sea, at £40 each, would have produced a sum equivalent to the expence of a better mode of transport.

Lord Palmerstone was not well informed on that subject; but he thought the Hon. Member went beyond the real cause in their statements. He called upon the house to consider the peculiar circumstances of the season, at which the British army had to evacuate France, according to the arrangement formed with all the Powers of Europe. The natural course had been to avail themselves of the means of transport which the station afforded. With a view to security, it was even preferable to employ vessels and men accustomed to navigate that part of the channel, to bringing others from a different quarter. If it had not been for the unexpected series of storms which had taken place, he was persuaded there would have been no loss amongst the horses.

Mr. Ponsonby thought that after what had fallen from an Hon. Gentleman on the other side of the house, it was necessary that some enquiry should take place on the subject.

Sir M. W. Ridley said, that the chief objection he had to the employment of cavalry in the prevention of smuggling, was the danger of the rewards which would be offered inducing them to swerve from the paths of duty, and also the effect it would have upon their moral habits. He alluded also to that article in the treaty of Paris in which it was stipulated that the collection of the taxes and customs should remain in the hands of the King of France, and that the Allied Commanders should not only throw no obstacle in the way, but should if necessary, give all the assistance in their power.—They were sent over, it appeared, not merely to keep the Bourbons on the throne, but to become their military *Douaniers*.

General Hope defended the Military Establishment as proposed by Ministers. With respect to the guards, he conceived that it was the best policy to augment their number, because the Household troops had proved themselves worthy of the confidence placed in them. They were, in fact, the only remains of those heavy horse which in the seven years war distinguished themselves so much, and which were able to beat down the force of the cuirassiers. The Honourable Member then proceeded to point out the [illegible] 1792, when there existed only one brigade of guards, amounting to 1,200 men, which could be called efficient. It was at the period of the expedition to Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercromby, that the British army began to appear in its proper light; and a letter received by Sir David Dundas, from that [illegible] lant general, fully exemplified the [illegible] of the system which was then [illegible] wherein he extolled the [illegible] and discipline of the British forces. Experience, contended, was absolutely necessary to form good soldiers, and quoted the Duke of Wellington as an example, who, having studied the military art for twenty-five years, had now [illegible] forth the glory of his country. He hoped, therefore, that these [illegible] measures would not be rejected upon the notion that the men who could be raised in a few weeks were as good soldiers, or as brave warriors, as those who had so long fought in so many battles for their country. In his opinion, there never was a time when the army had so strong a claim upon the country, and he conceived that it would be the best policy, as far as his judgment went, and the truest economy, to keep up the force which had been now proposed. The resolutions were then put and carried.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, March 11th.

Lord Folkestone wished to know if there was any intention of suppressing the office of third Secretary of State, which had been established in direct opposition to an Act of Parliament, under pretence of a pressure of business arising out of the war. The war was now at an end, and the necessity for this office must, as he submitted, have expired with it. Lord Castlereagh said, he was not aware of any intention immediately to suppress this office, but considerable retrenchment would be made in it.

The House went into a Committee of Supply on the army Estimates. Lord Palmerston moved his first Resolution that £385,275, 6s. 9d. be granted for defraying the expense of the household troops till December, 1816.

Mr. Calcraft opposed the resolution, and contended that the reduction of these troops to the number they stood at in 1781 was not an unreasonable proposition. In peace they were only useful for parade duties. He should therefore move to reduce them one half, which would leave them stronger than in 1791.

Lord Castlereagh apprehended that the House had already voted the number of the troops to be kept up. But if this motion were entertained, it would be reducing the troops of the line. One fourth of the guards were to be stationed in France. The Noble Lord proceeded to contend, that the proposed measures of the Hon. Member was not a measure of economy. It had been determined by the House that a certain force was necessary? and the army as it at present stood, was by no means complete. Would it then be economy to discharge 4000men of the Guards, who had cost the country from £50 to £100 each, and were the best troops in the army: and further, to charge the country with pensions to the men thus discharged; and still further, to put the country to the expence of raising and training 4000 peasants at a very considerable expence and thus to obtain green soldiers for veteran troops, only to save an assumed difference between Guards and Line.—The Noble Lord contended, that all the Guards were at present necessary; and that the home service required a considerably larger force now than it did in 1793. At this time Chatham alone would require 1000 men to do the duty on the lines and fortifications. The Noble Lord also contended, that to attempt to reduce the Household troops, who were all completely accoutred and mounted; and to sell their horses at perhaps, half their worth, and then to have other troops to raise, would be a measure of false economy indeed.

Mr Tierney was not yet convinced of the necessity of keeping up this large force of household troops. It could not be said that the state of the metropolis required the increased number; unless it was e[illegible] was different [illegible] (*hear;*)—He [illegible] did services of the Guards wherever they had been engaged, but they had sprung from 3000. Reduce them to 3000 again, and he had no doubt whenever they were again wanted they would be found to rise, and their services would again be as splendid as they had been. But the Noble Lord said it was impossible to reduce these troops, because the burthen in pensions would be greater than the expence of keeping them up. This was a most singular mode of proceeding, that putting down our Establishment would be more expensive than keeping it up. (*Hear, hear*).—Then the Noble Lord said, what should we do with the fine horses belonging to the Guards? They were indeed, fine horses; but surely they [illegible] for something. Next [illegible] of the services of the [illegible] they should not be re[illegible] what class of finemen would [illegible] reduce. The Scotch regiments [illegible] performed splendid services; and I says the Noble Lord, were beautiful reduce these regiments—if we do, what will become of these beautiful [illegible] *bagpipes*—(*a laugh*) [illegible] instance he could not cease to [illegible] was the strange [illegible] and his Colleagues [illegible] members. The [illegible] a very small [illegible] large majority [illegible] had indeed [illegible] of 120, but [illegible] The Noble [illegible] during the discussions [illegible], and the opposition had gained [illegible] votes—the Noble Lord had therefore spoken at the rate of eight and a fraction an hour.—(*Loud laughter*)—The Noble Lord said it was impossible to do without these household troops for the service of the metropolis. No doubt, if 10,000 of thise troops were voted they would be disposed of. The Bank Guards might be doubled; so might the soldiers attending at the Theatres, the Operahouse, the routs of the Nobility, and other places of amusement, where the military now supplied the place of the civil power; and he (Mr. Tierney) did not mean to say they did not conduct themselves properly. These troops, the favourite troops of the Prince Regent, which lined both sides of the Park and the streets whenever his Royal Highness went abroad, and who if the inclination of those who so much admired them were complied with, he (Mr. T.) believed would also line the walls of that House, must not be diminished in number.—(*Hear. hear!*)—Others beside the Noble Lord and the Regent, admired these troops; The Commander in Chief also admired them.

Lord Ranclifft, adverted to what fell from the Noble Lord (Castlereagh) in respect to this tax bringing prosperity to the peoples door. If the Noble Lord would go down to Nottingham, he would find that instead of prosperity, distress was an inmate.

General Mathew observed, that this tax had been the subject of discussion for 15 days, and he was glad to find that not one of his Irish Friends had spoken in favor of the tax, with the exception of one or two of the Irish Ministers. With all the opposition made against the tax, he still found that Ministers were determined to cram the tax down the throats of the English People. The Hon. General panegyrised the conduct of the Irish Members, condemned the Act of Union, and stated it as his opinion, that if the Act was not repealed the Empire would be shaken to its centre, for it was impossible they could, nay should not be tyrannized over. Six millions of persons would not submit to such conduct. With respect to the tax, he was certain that his Hon. countrymen would not vote for it. They would not lend [illegible] to such dirty work.—(*Hear hear!*)—H[illegible]g high and liberal minds too well [illegible] m for a moment. The questi[illegible] English one, but the honou[illegible] in it, and they [illegible] freedom, in [illegible]

The House [illegible] Household t[illegible] 128—against it, [illegible] strangers were exclud[illegible] that 7530,529 be voted [illegible] goon guards and dragoons, we[illegible]

Mr. C. Wynne moved an am[illegible] the diff rence between this and the last [illegible]ate of nearly 3000 men, be deducted. A division took place, when there appeared —for the amendment, —121— against it, 201—majority, 79.

Lord Palmerston moved that £333, 692 be voted for the service of the Cavalry and Waggon Train of Great Britain for the year 1816.

Mr. Tierney moved that the Chairman should report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

The House divided—for the Resolution, 126—against it, 62—Majority, 64. The Resolution was then agreed to. The Chairman then reported progress, and asked leave to sit again this day.—Adjourned. Tuesday.—Mr. J. Smith, presented a petition from the Town of Nottingham against the property-tax.

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